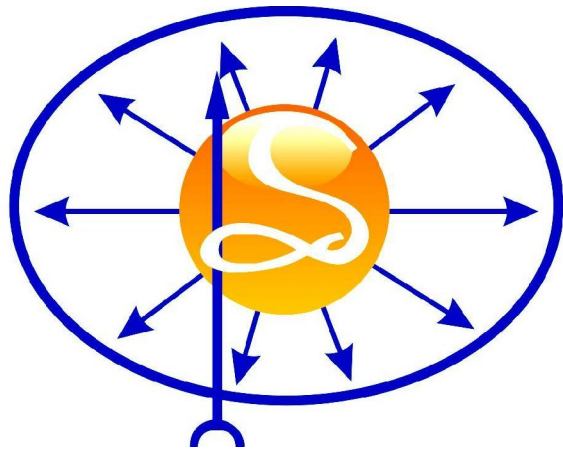


SEWA International



Activity Report 2009 – 2010

Sewa International Activity Report (2009-2010)

The movement, “SEWA INTERNATIONAL” was started in 1991 in the UK by some philanthropists initially to help the earthquake victims of Latur, Maharashtra. Since then, the movement has spread out to USA, Canada, Australia and other European countries. It is also setting foot in some African countries like Kenya and South Africa and a few Caribbean countries too. Sewa International aims at not only arousing the curiosity of scores of voluntary organizations and volunteers to grasp the strength and weaknesses of the society better but also prepares them for new challenges, makes changes happen, promotes opportunities and improves the way people do things to make this world better.

Mission Statement: "Sewa International is a 'not-for-profit' organization inspired by the noble Hindu tradition of service before self; working for promoting voluntarism internationally especially among children, youth, women and energetic senior citizens; building an international network of not-for-profit organizations; promoting philanthropy from the grassroots level to corporate sector; providing relief to the affected during calamities, natural and /or man-made, and rehabilitating them; building capacity of the non-profit organizations towards achieving results, empowering communities and individuals through sustained support; funding committed, grass roots organizations that rely strongly on volunteer efforts; supporting efforts that promote cultural and moral value systems in the society; and aiming to see happiness and well-being in everyone, everywhere and at all times".

Sewa International's Activity Domain:

1. To relieve poverty and disease and help the sick, needy, the weak and those affected by natural calamities, disasters and other suffering.

2. To help in the education and training of the poor, sick, disabled and socially backward students and assist them financially.
3. To facilitate long term development projects.
4. To enable and empower communities to become self reliant and earn a dignified living.
5. To strengthen voluntary organizations by training their personnel in effective implementation of projects with modern management techniques and encourage cooperation between its overseas chapters.
6. To support and aid village development programs, to achieve self sustenance through total integrated development.
7. To arrange visits of donors/contributors from abroad to various project sites in Bharat to have the first hand experience of various ongoing activities.
8. To provide services to allied voluntary organizations: on management of funds, materials, technical and human resources for social development, which are tough terrain faced by the voluntary and social development organizations.
9. To publish a monthly e-newsletter “Sewa Sandesh” and disseminate seva news to well wishers, donors and supporters.
10. To maintain a blog with information on ‘Seva Activities.’
11. To organize International Seva Meet at various places once every three years for interaction and better understanding of the needs and decide on future course of action to be taken.
12. To create ‘short documentaries’ on various projects/programs that have been supported / funded.
13. To maintain the website (www.sewainternational.org) with information on various seva activities.
14. To publish Activity Reports – Annual & Decadal – on the monumental seva activities that are being done in Bharat by SI in collaboration with numerous other sister organizations.
15. To maintain a well equipped library of over 5000 books on subjects like History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, Culture & Theology apart from prominent periodicals on various topics.

Summary of SI Activities for the year April 2009 – March 2010.

1. Kutch – Bhuj Project, Gujarat

Sewa International is already an established name in the field of ‘empowering women’s self help group through its micro enterprise development program’ since the launch of its program in the year 2005. It has established a brand name ‘Kutch Kala Sewa Kendra’, which is a federation of Self Help Groups of artisans and functions independently to facilitate the development process faster and create an environment for social change and a process of empowerment of women artisans to improve their living standards. This project is being aided by India Development & Relief Fund (IDRF) USA.

Women folks have been trained in modern designs to meet the demands of the market. Workshops for capacity building have provided to instill confidence among several communities like *Rabbari, Ahir, Jat, Patel* and other weavers’ community. So far 300 families in 18 villages of Bhuj district have been benefited from this project.

Every participating woman in the loop now earns at least Rs 1500/- per month whereas before the launch of this program this earning was just Rs. 500/-. Children are now in a position to continue their education and families are enjoying better standard of living. Women groups are encouraged and facilitated to participate in Handicrafts Melas across the country to get an experience of the market and also sell their products.

Three of the Self Help Groups formed by Sewa International at Keshav Nagar, Lodai availed a soft loan of Rs. 50,000 from Kutch Gujarat Grammen Bank for the third time in succession. Shri J.M.Trivedi, Bank Manager has congratulated them and Sewa International for timely refund of the loan and making a distinction.

A website: www.sewainternationalkutch.org has been launched to reach out to the global community and display of various products.



Nationalised banks, Cooperative banks and other government agencies joined hands for the financing and training of the women. Conferences too have been organized to involve NGOs and other related agencies to create awareness among the

people.

2. Education Aid: Supporting Students' Education This program was launched in 2005 to educate the talented students from the economically weaker sections and the probable drop-outs due to poverty. 550 students from 11 states have been covered so far under this scheme. Special emphasis has been laid to the North Eastern states where percentage of drop outs at primary and secondary level was more due to poverty and the difficult terrain which makes the communication demanding. Six of the North Eastern States have been covered under the education aid scheme, except Mizoram. Sewa International aims to give a hope to the children and help them discover themselves, compete and contribute to the national development.



Constant monitoring of the sponsored students are done by our grass root volunteers, who monitor their educational performance, interact with their teachers and the management of the schools for the all round improvement in them.

SI plans to organize personality development camps for sponsored students in respective states to instill confidence in them and teach them to make life better, rather than just earning a living.

2 a. Scholarships

To assist and aid meritorious but poor students pursuing higher studies and technical education, SI provides scholarships too.

Some of the beneficiaries during the year 2009-2010 are Narendra Vaghela, Spriha Joshi, Kamal Dave, Mahesh Chandra and Harish Kanjaria who have been assisted by a scholarship of Rs. 10,000.

Miss Komang Sudarmi, a student from Bali, Indonesia also received scholarship of Rs. 1,53,500/- during September 2009 to April 2010.

3. Boys' Hostel Project, Dagsai, Solan, Himachal Pradesh

Sewa International launched the Boys' Hostel project on the 9th of February 2008. The aim is to fulfill the educational needs of the students of Himachal Pradesh, who have largely remained poor and untouched by development due to unemployment, poor agriculture production, rugged terrain and outsider's control over the tourism industry, which is the backbone of economy in Himachal Pradesh.

SI started the hostel with 12 boys in the first year and increased to 32 of them at present, who have come from far flung districts of Himachal Pradesh, which still is devoid of proper road connectivity.

The hostel building which is over 100 years old, was leased to Seva Bharati, Himachal Pradesh. It is a well built double-storey building in stone masonry with wooden flooring consisting of four halls and 23 rooms, quite spacious to operate a boys' hostel.

The hostel is located in the panoramic Dagsai Cantonment area, 2 kms away from the National Highway 22, which is at a distance of 60 kms from Shimla and 65 kms from Chandigarh.

Out of the 12 boys of the first batch, 9 had never seen a vehicle before coming to SI hostel. Their friends stood stunned hearing the revelation on their arrival to the hostel. Coming to the hostel was their first bus ride and they had boarded the bus after a walk of over 20 kms from their village.

The boys at the hostel have been admitted to a nearby government high school. A qualified warden and a teacher stay in the hostel premises as guardians and provide them with extra coaching sessions so that children could perform better. The boys of this hostel have progressed remarkably in education and an all round development can be witnessed. They look very confident now. Eight students have secured high marks in their respective classes.

Pushpanand of Rampur was caught in a forest fire while coming to the hostel for admission and received over 50% burn injury. SI owned the responsibility of treating him. It took almost a year for him to recover completely. He has been admitted in class nine and is steadily progressing in studies too.

Another student Aapees who is in class 6, has only 50% vision. He is a very intelligent student and SI is getting him treated so that he can improve his vision.

Paras of class 5 has passed the examination with distinction.

4. Anbu Illam Orphanage Project, Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu was one of the worst affected states during the tsunami of 2004. Over 13000 people died and many thousands were rendered homeless. Sewa International was in action serving the tsunami victims from day one of the incident. About 300 homes were constructed and dedicated to the affected families in Nagappattinam Town in record time.

Many young boys and girls were orphaned or were left without a bread earner. SI and its partner organisation Seva Bharati, Tamil Nadu shouldered the responsibility to adopt such children from all the affected districts. SI has already constructed an orphanage for the girls at Nagapattinam, which is operational since 2005 and started a boys' orphanage at Ramnathapuram in a rented accommodation thereafter.

Sewa International took up the task to build an orphanage as a tsunami rehabilitation project, sponsored by Sewa International UK. The construction of the building is almost complete, with minor finishing work still in progress.

The building located in Sathyanagar locality, half a kilometer from the Rameshwaram Bus Stand, has a common dining area, reading room, kitchen block and 9 big sized rooms to house the kids

The orphanage is being run in Ramnathapuram Town in a rented accommodation with 110 boys who are mostly orphans, destitute or from poor families. All the boys have been admitted to government schools and are doing well in studies with SI's active support.

5. Katra Hostel Project, J&K

The Boys' residential hostel 'Disha' is situated at Katra, J&K near the famous Vaishno Devi Shrine. The total campus area of the hostel is 24570 sq. ft and building area covers 5000 sq. ft. The hostel is surrounded by lot of greenery and hills. At present 24 boys (aged between 8 to 16) are residing at the hostel and they belong to the following five categories: Earthquake victims (8), affected by terrorism (8), boys from remote as well as border areas (3), orphans (2) and poorest of the poor (3). S.I. is planning to increase the strength to 40 this year. The region and religion-wise break-up of the students is: Ladakh 4 (Buddhist), Kashmir Valley 5 (4 Muslim + 1Hindu), Jammu 15 (Hindu).



The annual expenditure on running the hostel is about Rs.6,75,000. The grant received from IDRF was utilized for the construction of the existing building.

5.a Residential School Project, Leh, J&K

Sewa International in association with Bharati Shiksha Samiti J&K has planned to build a free residential school for the poor boys of the region at Leh. This project has been sponsored by SI UK. The desired construction materials have been procured already with the 1st installment of donation and construction work will be started as soon as the climatic condition at Leh is congenial.

6. Bihar Flood Relief and Rehabilitation:

Flood is a very usual phenomenon for the State of Bihar but the floods of August 2008 were the worst in living memory, leaving thousands

dead and rendering homeless and destroying crops, cattle and property worth billions. River Kosi changed its course due to breach in its embankment devastating five districts of Bihar namely Supaul, Araria, Madhepura, Saharsa and Purnea, affecting over 2.27 million people in 755 villages.

Sewa International with its local partner organization Seva Bharati, Bihar responded immediately to the flood situation in the region. Within a few hours of the tragedy, Our volunteers started feeding over 30,000 people regularly through the mass-feeding camps and started providing immediate relief by setting up 7 major rescue and relief centres and 21 sub centres in different flood affected districts.

SI was the only organization except some government agencies that operated its relief centres for 40 days till the situation reached to normal. In December 2008, Sewa International bought a Mobile medical Van to serve the flood victims by providing with health services and reaching to their door steps with a team of doctors and paramedic staff.

With the view to rehabilitate the worst affected families, SI identified 600 families in Supaul, Madhepura, Saharsa, Araria and distributed family kit comprising of utensils, clothes, day to day utility goods along with food grains and at the same time distributed tools/equipments to various artisans of the village to rehabilitate them economically and to earn a livelihood to tide over the unwarranted situation.

On the rehabilitation front, SI is constructing a residential school at Bihariganj in Madhepura District. The project is a joint venture of Sewa Internatioanal and Bharti Shiksha Samiti, Bihar where SI will educate boys and girls who have been affected by the flood and also offer residential facility for those who have either been orphaned due to the flood or have lost their bread-earners.

The construction work of the residential school is in progress and has been completed to the plinth level and is expected to be operational partially in a year's time.

7. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Relief and Rehabilitation:

In the first week of October 2009, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka witnessed the fury of torrential rains which resulted in flash floods that killed over 130 people and left thousands homeless and stranded without food and water. This was a never seen before situation for these two states.

Local volunteers of Sewa Bharati responded to the situation instantaneously and started rescuing people to safer places and then providing them with the much needed food and drinking water. SI supported 10 mass feeding camps in the two states serving over 20,000 people for over a week till the water receded. Once the affected people were shifted to safer places, SI distributed over 25 truck-loads of relief materials.

For carrying out long term rehabilitation activities SI has partnered with two local organizations in Andhra Pradesh i.e. Sangha Mitra Seva Samithi in Kurnool district and Grama Bharathi in the Mehboobnagar district respectively.

In Kurnool district, SI proposes to construct 5 community development centres in five villages which will benefit 15,700 flood affected people. SI will operate a Health centre in morning, women's empowerment program in the afternoon and a study centre in the evening operating from each of the community centres.

In Mahboobnagar district, SI has identified 32 villages targeting 59,500 flood victims. Out of the 32 villages, 17 villages are devoid of public health centres as the nearest health centres are at a distance of 10 KM. Hence, SI will have two mobile dispensaries connecting these 17 villages and reaching the affected people at their door steps attending to their health needs. SI also proposes to build 7 community development centres which will operate as health centres, women's empowerment centres and study centres for the youths of the region.

8. Arogya Rakshak: Medical Volunteer

Sewa International has been supporting a program named "Arogya Rakshak" in the North Eastern states.

The war against disease cannot be fought by physicians alone. It is a people's war in which the entire population must be mobilized permanently.

The approach therefore has to shift fundamentally to placing the community in the centre-stage, and building competencies and partnership within it for low-cost and affordable, people-centered, preventive and curative health services.

From an approach of health for people, SI moves to a 'de-medicalized' and non-formal model of **health by people**, involving them at all stages of planning, implementation and evaluation.

Arogya Rakshak is a local person (usually young) trained in preventive health care, early identification of major diseases, nutrition, and hygiene. This person carries a kit of basic medicines and apparatus. He/she visits each village that is assigned to him/her on a regular basis.



Refresher trainings and inputs by the district team guide the Arogya Rakshak in their work. The district team is composed of able doctors and social workers. This team decides the focus area, e.g. they foresee an epidemic in a particular season and plan appropriate action. The Arogya Rakshak is supported and monitored by a group leader (among 10 Arogya Rakshaks) and by a unit leader (among 50 Arogya Rakshaks).

The network of Arogya Rakshak works as an interactive medium of health: they take health-service to the people, and bring feedback of people to the service-providers. He/she plays multiple roles for the villagers: a health-educator, a point of first referral, and a health-counselor.



The Arogya Rakshak is trusted by the people. He/she is a local person and is a volunteer. He/she is not paid and does not have any commercial interest in this work.

To assist this program of Arogya Rakshak, SI has 5 doctors equipped with 2 medical vans with free medicines and six ambulances, which caters to over 7000 patients per month by organizing 50 health camps in the region.

So far, SI has been successful in training 4052 health workers, who are treating more than 20,000 patients per day in the rural areas of the North Eastern states. SI has the target of training 1000 health workers per year and reaching out to more patients every year.

9. Seva Sahayog, Pune

Seva Sahayog (SS) is a platform of Seva International which aims at engaging socially conscious corporates, groups and individuals, with NGOs of matching interests. The NGOs in Seva Sahayog network are those, who have demonstrated a sound and robust record in grassroots work, but lack resources such as technology, finance and human resources - to take their work to the next level. SS network aims at effectively channelizing these resources to the NGOs.

Seva Sahayog volunteers had visited few schools with limited financial resources, where it was observed that the students lack the facilities / amenities to study. As per the survey conducted, most of the students were also not in a position to afford the basic amenities needed for education.

The reasons were many such as; parents being away from the children, unemployed parents, single parents with financial strain, children without parents or family below poverty line etc.

SS volunteers had discussions with teachers and volunteers of voluntary organisations (VOs) working in slums and came up with a list of basic requirements under the School Kit Program. The scheme was explained to volunteers of VOs who responded enthusiastically. They felt the scheme was a great help to those children. Their support and enthusiasm made the activity a big success.

SS through its strong tie-ups with NGOs and good sponsors has made a concrete plan to initiate the School Kit Program and aid these schools. This program was started in 2008 by the young and resourceful volunteers of Seva Sahayog taking inspiration from a similar effort done in Bangalore since 2007.

Each year Seva Sahayog appeals to employees of major corporates as well as youth in Pune city and a good number of volunteers turn up to donate and also to do the packing and delivery of school-kits. The gigantic tasks of picking the right material for right bags (different for primary school-kids and for high school kids) takes many assembly lines of the volunteers.

Many Seva Sahayog volunteers come with their children and the entire family get the first-hand joy of doing seva!

Beneficiaries:

- Bhatke Vimukta Vikas Pratishthan
- Bharatiya Stree Shakti Jagran
- Astitva Pratishthan
- Jijai Shikan Mandir
- Samarasta Punarutthan Gurukulam
- S. P. Raste High school
- Gopal Rao Navjivan Vasti Gruh, Vadgaon
- The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation
- Dnyanada Pratishthan Schools
- Surajya Prakalp
- Niramay
- Swaroop Wardhinee
- Chaitanya Mahila Mandal
- Kotwalwadi Trust
- Agarkar School
- Maharashtra Education Society (MES)
- Savitribai Phule Pratishthan
- Usha Tai Lokhande Charitable Trust
- Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Mulashi
- Shivsamarth Pratishthan
- Indrayani Seva Samiti
- Kelkar Vasti
- Vidya Pratishthan Schools
- Ram Nagar Informal Education Centre
- Z.P. school
- Torna Raigad Vasti Gruh
- Bhugaon Higher Secondary School
- Jan Adhar Sevabhavi Sanstha, Latur

Seva Fair: Seva Fair is an exhibition of products being done by Voluntary Organizations, specifically women in Self Help Groups, supported by Seva Sahayog. This is an annual event which is organized just before *Diwali* every year. An exhibition of products developed by different *bachat gat* women is put on sale in different corporates and institutes.

It is an opportunity for employees to do good at their doorstep and an easy and effective way to groom social conscience of the employees. Employee involvement in community initiatives evolves naturally.

Products of almost 10 NGOs were exhibited in about 10 different corporates and institutes in year 2009.

Seva Sahayog also takes various initiatives to make these Self Help Groups to improve themselves in many ways.

Seva Sahayog also conducted a one week work shop for women of self help groups or '*Bachat Gats*' in March 2009 before Seva Fair which was organized in month of October 2009. The event was conducted at Swaroopwardhini in Pune. The objective of the workshop was to train the coordinators in various skills from Seva Fair point of view and also to help them to get year round work. About 60-70 women attended this workshop and learnt to make several eco-friendly articles, such as fabric and jute shopping bags, handmade paper articles, floating candles, creative diya painting etc. Creativity, Quality Management, Time Management and Entrepreneurship Skills were emphasized by the speakers at these workshops.

Beneficiaries:

SHG is not just a tool of economic improvement. It is an activity that lets women come out, come together, and have the confidence to earn. Being an earning member changes the woman's status in family. SHG becomes the accelerator of social change at micro-level. A woman in SHG is supported by her fellow group members even in her family emergencies. SHG is an institution of community cohesion. It is much more than just a micro-credit group.

Women from the SHG's which participated in the Seva Fair greatly benefited from it as it provided market to their products and 'truly lighted' their *Diwali* celebrations.

Participating NGOs:

- Swaroopwardhini, Pune
- Purvanchal Vikas, Gauhati
- Seva International Womens' Project, Bhuj
- Jyana Prabodhini Gram Vikas, Khed Sivapur
- Bharatiya Stree Shakti, Pune
- SMILE, Pune
- Swayamsiddha Mahila Mandal, Pune
- Arkin - Home School, Pune
- Jyana Prabodhini Yuvati Vikas, Pune
- Pragati Pratishthan, Javahar

Seva Darshan: Seva Sahayog aims at engaging socially conscious corporates, groups and individuals, with NGOs of matching interests.

The NGOs in Seva Sahayog network are those, who have demonstrated a sound and robust record in grassroots work, but lack resources such as technology, finance and human resources - to take their work to the next level. The SS network aims at effectively channelizing these resources to the NGOs.

Working towards same aim, Seva Sahayog took an initiative – Seva Darshan – where the idea was to connect corporate individuals and students from different colleges with the NGOs working in area of their interest. Intention was to spread the work of people working at grass root level to the bigger audience and also get some help from the corporates if required for any of these NGOs, either financial, technical or other resources.

As a part of this initiative Seva Sahayog organized visits to different NGOs over the weekends. Interested individuals/groups were taken for the visits of NGO's location. Before visits, groups were given training of how to write reports explaining the working of NGO and to study their resource requirements. People who visited NGOs prepared report of their visit along with resource requirements. Few individuals/groups also took ahead the requirements of NGOs to interested corporates and presented it to them and got the needs of NGO fulfilled. Few of them also wished to continue being associated with the visited NGOs which is a 'real' achievement of Seva Darshan initiative.

Beneficiaries: 25 NGOs got recognition for their work by bigger audience through the visits of corporate volunteers where the visual effect on volunteers was automatically circulated among others in company.

Yuva for Sewa (YFS): YFS is a program for youth (age 20 to 30) of mainly Indian origin from all over the world as well as for youth in Bharat. YFS partners with local service organizations (or NGOs) to develop 6-months or 12-months Seva internship projects.

These projects are based on the needs of NGOs that can be helped with by a volunteer from YFS. The volunteer is expected to focus on a single issue or target to be completed in phased manner within his/her internship period.

For year 2009, two youth, Bharat Kusuma and Nirbhay Dhapodkar from US worked on the project "Microfinance" – Basically to understand what microfinance is in Bharat and how it is helping women in low income community.

For this, they worked with Pune based NGO, "Swaroop Wardhinee" which is activity in education and women empowerment since over 30+ years.

They studied the way SHGs are formed and managed in Swaroop Wardhinee and also analyzed how it's helping women in gaining self reliance and self respect.

Beneficiaries: Nirbhay and Bharat submitted a report on what Microfinance is all about and how this idea evolved. They also prepared a proposal template which could be used to get work for the SHG women from the corporates.

Yuva for Sewa 2009 Fellows

Nirbhay Dhapodkar is a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying Finance, Accountancy, Technology and Management. Nirbhay volunteered in Pune, Maharashtra for 2 ½ months researching about Micro-financing and Self-Help groups.



Aparna Garg is an undergraduate student at Boston University majoring in Economics and Journalism. Aparna spent 2 ½ months working with Youth for Seva documenting the success stories of slum development projects of various NGOs in Bangaluru and other parts of Karnataka.



Bharat Kusuma is an undergraduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign majoring in Mathematics. Bharat spent 2 months researching about Micro-financing and Self-Help groups for communities in Pune, Maharashtra.

Vijay Swamy, a junior at Carnegie Mellon studying Business and Law, spent one month researching the details of legal help that people in the slums require as well as brainstorming fundraising ideas for the local NGOs.



Apurva Kaushik is a student at Case Western Reserve University studying Philosophy. This summer she volunteered in Bangaluru by teaching English and Vedic Maths.

10. Youth for Seva (Bangaluru):

Sewa International is aiding and supporting a project in Bangaluru named 'Youth for Seva' (YFS), as there is a growing desire among the youth to volunteer their time and talent for community development. Most of them are not currently involved in volunteering work because of three major reasons: i) Not knowing where to start. ii) The fear that it may be too much of responsibility and iii) Concern that it cannot be done with their limited time availability. Y F S offers various options to the youth with varying time commitments. Y F S was formed in April 2007 to fill this gap so that youth with an intention to volunteer and with different time commitments can easily find meaningful opportunities to serve the community.

The mission of YFS is to inspire youth to volunteer, connect them to the grass roots projects, and provide ongoing support and training to the volunteers and the NGOs.

11. Documentaries

Sewa International has developed a video documentation unit at Bhagyanagar and Delhi to document and report its activities. Video reports are sent to donors and its well wishers. During 2009-2010 several short documentaries were presented about various welfare projects like: Tsunami, Education Aid, Arogya Rakshak, Women's Empowerment and Sewa Sangam.

12. The Dhanvantari Seva Yatra Programme in the North-East



Sewa International has been supporting, facilitating and financially aiding the Dhanvantari Seva Yatra (DSY) Programme in the North-East, since its launch in the year 2005. It has now become a week-long annual affair serving and benefiting the poorest of the poor of the region.

The DSY is a humble endeavor not only to extend free healthcare services to the villagers of remote areas of North-Eastern region but also to inculcate the sense of social responsibility and commitment amongst the newly budding young doctors to provide every individual of the society with a sound health and mind.

Through the six Dhanvantri Seva Yatras 319 health camps have been organised so far covering 1175 villages and treating a total of 53329 patients, of which 22893 were males and 30436 female patients. Sewa International's presence in the region has saved lives due to the timely intervention and action by its doctors and paramedical voluntary workers.

So far, six Dhanvantari Seva Yatras have been organized. The 6th Dhanvantari Seva Yatra was organized from July 5, 2009 to July 12, 2009. 42 doctors participated in the novel venture, out of which 24 doctors were from Benaras Hindu University, 16 from Guwahati Medical College and 2 doctors from Meghalaya.

The doctors were divided into 9 teams and were sent to 4 places in Assam, 1 in Arunachal Pradesh, 1 in Dimapur and 3 places in Meghalaya. The team of doctors organized 50 camps covering 144 villages and treated 7739 patients out of which 4242 were females.

13. Supporting Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Activities in Chhattisgarh

Sewa International has been assisting the activities of Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram for several years. In 2009 too Sewa International financially supported for the projects run by ABVKA.

Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram was established in 1952 at Jashpurnagar of the then Madhya Pradesh and now Chhattisgarh State.

Kalyan Ashram has taken education to the masses even to the remote places with the “**One Teacher School**” philosophy and has started hostels to nurture the students and samskar kendras to give the impressionable young minds life long values.

Kalyan Ashram strives to make the vanvasis aware of their lawful rights with respect to *jal, jungle & jamin* that is water, forest & land and also their social rights with the sole purpose of all round development and upliftment of vanvasis.

The Ashram has the following aims and objectives:

- Fostering the internal strength of organized society.
- Awakening of its heritage, self respect based on religion, culture and tradition.
- Bringing harmony among all the constituents of the society.

14. Gopal Dham Project, Delhi:



This project is being run by Seva Bharati, and aided by Sewa International.

Gopal Dham is a home for the 102 children who are orphans, destitutes, militancy-affected from J&K, from very poor family background or children of leprosy affected. It is, in fact, a home of joy. The idea

behind the establishment of Gopal Dham was that children should enjoy learning rather than running away thinking it to be a burden.

The hostel is trying to give back to the children their lost childhood. Thus, Gopal Dham has been created as a place where children learn to be a good human being rather than being an object of examination. It aims at preparing the children to face the world at ease, not cluttered by hesitations, and fears. In fact it is an attempt at blooming into flower, the possibility that lies in every child, despite their socio-economic background. These children are provided free shelter, parental care, love and a quality education to inculcate self confidence and become self reliant.

The children have been admitted to a Senior Secondary English Medium School (affiliated with CBSE), and are imparted computer education, along with communication skills.

The newcomers to Gopal Dham shared their experiences which were really hard to believe. 5 of the children from the Kashmir valley had witnessed their parents being killed by the terrorists. It took sometime for them to overcome the trauma but now the love and affection meted to them at Gopal Dham has made them confident & happy. They are now hopeful of a bright future.

15. 12 issues of '**Sewa Sandesh**' were published and circulated by e-mail in 40 countries to over 500 subscribers during the year 2009-2010.
16. A recent addition is a blog www.sewasandesh.blogspot.com which is received by hundreds of regular subscribers throughout the year.
17. **Other activities supported / done by Sewa International are as follows:**

Sewa International also supported some other organizations in 2009 – 2010 that are involved in running various projects / programs viz.

- **Sewa Bharati Bhopal (Residential School Building Project).**
- **Bhutan Earthquake (Relief & Rehabilitation).**
- **Easy Power Project and Solid Solar Project, Myanmar (Power Projects).**
- **Saraswati Sindhu Nyas (Educational Project).**
- **RIWATCH (Research Institute for World Ancient Traditions, Cultures & Heritage) Guest House Project, Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Antar Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad – Pravasi Bhawan Project.**